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Keynote Presentation: Data Work: Research Data Services in Canada & the U.S.

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Data Work: research data services in Canada & the U.S.

UMASS & New England Area Librarian e-Science Symposium
April 6, 2016

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Collaboration

Data Work

Research Data Services

Infrastructure

Future?
## Research Data Services Surveys & Scans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Web, 1</strong> What is Covered</th>
<th><strong>Admin, 2</strong> RDS Services Offered</th>
<th><strong>Librarians, 3,4</strong> RDS roles</th>
<th><strong>Researchers, 5</strong> What they want</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Formation</strong></td>
<td>Data Policies</td>
<td>RDS Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education &amp; Outreach</strong></td>
<td>Consultation &amp; Instruction (DMP, etc.)</td>
<td>Information Consultation (DMP, metadata, reference, training)</td>
<td>Support &amp; Training (librarians &amp; researchers)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Analysis &amp; Training</strong></td>
<td>Processing &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>Technical Services (RDS systems, preparing de</td>
<td>Auditing &amp; Data Repository (technical support)</td>
<td>2/3+ preserve, organize and manage their own data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tools &amp; Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Deposit, Repositories, Storage</td>
<td>De-accessioning Data</td>
<td></td>
<td>10% or less rely on libraries (&amp; publishers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaborations</strong> (internal &amp; external, regional)</td>
<td>DMPtool/builder (shared tool)</td>
<td>RDS &amp; Research Collaboration</td>
<td>Research Collaborator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Kouper et. al. 2016 & forthcoming  
2. Tenopir/ACRL 2012, 2015  
3. Gold 2007  
4. Cox & Pinfield 2013 UK focus  
5. ITHAKA S&R 2016 Straumsheim & Schonfeld 2016
Data Service or Data Collaboration?

• **Data Service**
  – emphasizes & privileges central role of certain types of
    • traditional research &
    • researchers in academia
• **Data Collaboration**
  – emphasizes & privileges central role of certain types of
    • traditional research & potentially emergent forms and digital methodologies
    • librarians as researchers in academia
    • OR as data workers contributing something of different buy equal value (curation, digital platform or database creation, etc.)

For more on influence of this shift within DH and T&P, value of ‘data curation’ projects see Siddiqui N. (2015) *Data Assemblages: A Call to Conceptualize Materiality in the Academic Ecosystem* in *DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 9(2).
Other Models of Collaboration

Digital Scholarship or Humanities Centers
Archives & Special Collections
Researcher/Society Databases & Data Collections
Museum Collections Data Liberation Initiative
Social Science Data Archives
What is Digital Infrastructure? How Does Infrastructure Impact Research?

Industry/Corporations
Professional Associations
Super Computing
Data/Digital Laborors

Data / Knowledge Workers

Legal & Policy Frameworks
Fiber-optic Networks
Electric Grid
Regional Consortia
National Funders
Political & Economic Context

- National Funders
- Science & Educational Policy
- Globalization 2.0
- Culture Wars
- Reagonomics
- Open Access Movement
- Transnational ‘Entities’

- Fall of Berlin Wall
- OECD Signatories
- Neoliberal Governance
- Deregulation
- International Treaties
Futures?

- More People, Professions, Interests
- Context & Scale
- Political and Economic Factors
- Privacy and Data Ethics
- Data as commodity
- Data Work/Digital Labor
- Power Relations in Infrastructure and Data Assemblages
Who defines the problem and decides on the solution? Who is missing from the conversation?
Works cited


Kouper, Inna et. al. (forthcoming) (Research Data Services Maturity in Academic Libraries.


Thank you!

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